

## Comorbidity of substance dependence with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in individuals with methamphetamine dependence at a Thai substance dependency treatment cohort

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**Background:** Comorbidity of overall substance dependence with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) was about one-fourth(Oortmerssen, 2011). Prevalence of ADHD in experienced methamphetamine (MA) users with and without alcohol, tobacco, and other illegal substance use/dependence has not been studied.

**Method:** Diagnostic data was obtained from 727 Thai adults (age $\geq$  18 years) with MA dependence at a substance dependency treatment center in Central Thailand by using the Semi-Structure Assessment for Drug Dependence and Alcoholism (SSADDA) Thai version. Association between ADHD and alcohol, tobacco dependence and other illegal substance use was analyzed by using chi-square statistics or Fisher's Exact Test (FET).

**Results:** Of 727 subjects, 5 (0.7%) met DSM-IV criteria for ADHD by using SSADDA. MA-dependent subjects with alcohol dependence were more likely to have ADHD than those without (n = 4 of 203 (2.0%) vs n = 1 of 524 (0.2%); p = 0.02, FET). Prevalence of ADHD was higher in subjects with other substance dependence/use than their counterparts, but did not survive the statistical threshold (e.g., tobacco, 1% vs 0%; solvent, 1.6% vs 0.6%; cannabis, 2.1% vs 0.5%; opioid, 2.6% vs 0.6%) (p> 0.05).

**Conclusion:** Prevalence of childhood ADHD in this adult MA-dependent cohort is very low comparing to previous studies. Comorbidity of alcohol dependence with ADHD in individuals with MA dependence is 2%, statistically higher than those without.